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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SAVA 73-96

6 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Report of Impending Major Land-Grab
Attempt by NVA/VC Forces

1. My call to you this morning (6 June) was prompted by a cabled summary of a report which was still being translated (in Bien Hoa) when the summary cable was sent. Attached hereto is a just received copy of the full text. This is a preliminary copy which, in the interests of speed, I am sending to you "as is." A finished (and neater) copy will be sent to the White House Situation Room later this afternoon.

2. [redacted] we are confident that his report accurately reflects what the COSVN high command is telling its ranking cadres at this point. The first half of the report concerns the current round of negotiations in Paris, and details "seven points" of a "second agreement" which allegedly is to be signed within the next few days.

3. The second half of the report describes Communist plans for a major step-up of military action in "a number of key areas" of South Vietnam within the next 24 to 72 hours, employing NVA/VC main forces as well as local forces. While this information appears to be somewhat different in its emphasis from other recent

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reporting (which has generally played down the likelihood of large scale military action) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, at least in the northwestern MR 3 area of Tay Ninh and Binh Duong Provinces [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], we have some additional information indicating that the Communists may be preparing for an upsurge of action. Another report which we received this morning [REDACTED] also attached) alleges that the NVA 9th Division has been ordered to prepare for offensive actions in this area beginning on 5 June (sic). In addition [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicates that at least one and probably two regiments of the NVA 5th Division have recently moved from MR 4 into Tay Ninh Province of MR 3, strengthening enemy forces considerably in the latter province.

4. In sum, even though the attached report takes a different tack from other recent reporting [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], we place considerable credence in its accuracy --

[REDACTED] From it, and other straws now in the wind, we would rate quite high the likelihood that at least in MR 3 the Communists have decided to try a series of fairly ambitious land-grabs over the next several days, i.e., between now and the time any new set of agreements is supposed to go into effect.

5. My present plan is to have the attached report routinely disseminated this afternoon to recipients throughout the intelligence community. I would appreciate a call from you, however, either concurring in this action or directing a more limited dissemination (which you might deem desirable in light of the details the report gives on agreements that it alleges are about to be signed). I will not let the report be released until I have heard from you.

[REDACTED]
George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

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